

CERTIFICATE

WE certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (61)28 were cast as set out above, that the proposal set out in that Voting Paper has been duly adopted, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 637.

N. D. RILEY
Secretary

W. E. CHINA
Assistant Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London
25 January 1962

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED VALIDATION OF *AMMONITES LAEVIGATUS* J. DE C. SOWERBY, 1827, IN TWO DISTINCT SENSES. Z.N.(S.) 1203

(see present volume, pages 35-38)

By R. V. Melville (*British Embassy, Paris*)

I write in support of the application by Dr. D. T. Donovan and Mr. C. W. Wright. No possible service could be done to the stability of nomenclature or to the convenience of palaeontologists by reviving the binomen *Ammonites laevigata* Lamarck, 1822, or by attempting to give this name an objective meaning. On the other hand, both the species designated as *Ammonites laevigatus* by J. de C. Sowerby are well known, and in each case the specific name *laevigatus* has been used far more commonly than any other name. Apart from the fact that both species have smooth shells, there is no close resemblance between them, for the Gault *Beudanticeras* is more compressed and attains a much larger size than the Liassic *Cymbites*.

In spite of the work of many revisers, there probably exist numerous similar instances of primary homonymy between specific names in *Ammonites*, especially if Quenstedt's trinominal names are taken into account. The present case is typical of many of these in that the strict application of the Law of Homonymy would upset stability and result in unnecessary name-changing.

By R. Casey (*Geological Survey and Museum, London*)

I write in support of the proposals of Dr. D. T. Donovan and Mr. C. W. Wright, which are in the best interests of a stable nomenclature. This case is discussed in my *Monograph of the Ammonoidea of the Lower Greensand, Part III* (1961), pp. 157-160, published by the Palaeontographical Society.